

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06801 300246Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W

-----301222Z 041511 /17

R 300210Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6801

CHIANG MAI 116 DATED 290649Z MAR 77 SENT TO BANGKOK BEING  
REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO:

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CHIANG MAI 116

REF: (A) BANGKOK 6673, (B) BANGKOK 6551, (C) BANGKOK 6091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH, PM

SUBJECT: BURMESE SHELLING OF THAI VILLAGE

SUMMARY: TAK GOVERNOR REPORTS THAT 15 WERE KILLED AND  
AROUND FIFTY INJURED IN THE BURMESE SHELLING OF BAN WANG  
KHA.

1. GOVERNOR KUSON SARNTITHAM TOLD ME IN A VONCERSATION  
IN TAK PROVINCE YESTERDAY THAT THERE WERE FITEEN CONFIRMED  
DEATHS IN THE BURMESE ARMY SHELLING OF BAN WANG KHA LAST  
WEEK. THREE OF THOSE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL, THE OTHER BODIES  
WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE. THE GOVERNOR ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT  
FIFTY PEOPLE WERE INJURED, THIRTY-FIVE OF THOSE "SERIOUSLY".

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2. BAN WANG KHA WAS NOT MUCH MORE THAN A MARKET PLACE  
ON A RIVER BANK, IT'S MAJOR CUSTOMERS, KARENS AND BURMESE  
LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER. THE GOVERNOR RE-  
PORTS THAT TWENTY OR MORE SHELLS FELL INTO THE MARKET AREA  
COMPLETELY DESTROYING IT. OF THOSE KILLED, THE GOVERNOR  
ESTIMATES THAT "ONLY FOUR OR FIVE" WERE ETHNIC THAI.  
THE REST WERE KAREN, MON, AND BURMESE.

3. LOOKING AT A MAP OF THE AREA AND THE PICTURES OF THE DESTRUCTION, IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND HOW AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE COULD OVERFLY THE TARGET BY ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YARDS AND FALL ON THE THAI SIDE OF THE RIVER. IN THE GOVERNOR'S PICTURES OF THE DESTRUCTION, THE BUILDINGS THAT WERE SUPPOSEDLY THE TARGET ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND, STILL STANDING. HOWEVER THE GOVERNOR, AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES WITH WHOM WE TALKED, REPORT THAT MOST PEOPLE IN TAK BELIEVE THE ATTACK WAS DELIBERATE. EVEN SO, THE DESTRUCTION OF BAN WANG KHA DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED ANTI-BURMESE SENTIMENT IN THE AREA. SUCH ANTI-BURMESE SENTIMENT IS ALREADY SO STRONG THAT THE INCIDENT ONLY SERVED TO REENFORCE PREVAILING SENTIMENT.

4. ON SATURDAY, THE THAI MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRAVELED TO TAK FOR AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION OF THE DAMAGE. HOWEVER, HE NEVER MADE IT TO MAE SOT AS THE ATTEMPTED COUP FORCED HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN TO BANGKOK.

TANNER

UNQTE

BURKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BANGKOK 6673, 77 BANGKOK 6551, 77 BANGKOK 6091  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BURMESE SHELLING OF THAI VILLAGE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, TH, BM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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